

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 05547 112356Z

72

ACTION IO-03

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 5547

LIMDIS

DEPT PASS SANAA

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: UNDP, EAID

SUBJ: STAFFING UNDP RESREP OFFICE

REF: SANAA 2304; STATE 240419

1. ON BASIS RECOMMENDATIONS STIG ANDERSEN, DEPUTY DIRECTOR UNDP REGIONAL BUREAU, WHO RECENTLY VISITED YEMEN AND WHO THEN AND HAS SINCE HAD TALKS WITH POWERFUL CHAIRMAN OF PLANNING COMMISSION, EL ERIANY, UNDP IN PERSON MAKIEDO AND PETERSON HAVE DECIDED:

1. RETAIN KOUWENHOVEN IN RESREP POST AT LEAST UNTIL MAY-JUNE 1974 WHEN THEY WILL REVIEW BIDDING.

2. ADD GOOD PAKISTANI--WHO ARRIVING THIS WEEK--TO RESREP STAFF.

3. PUT AN AMERICAN WHO PRESENTLY WORKS FOR MAKIEDO IN HEADQUARTERS IN AS THE DEPUTY RESREP--SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY (NOTE--THEY HAD OTHER EXPERIENCED AMERICAN BERNA GOING IN DECEMBER WHO JUST CHANGED MIND).

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 USUN N 05547 112356Z

4. ADD A YOUNG PROGRAM OFFICER--A UGANDAN PRESENTLY FINISHING HEADQUARTERS TRAINING--ALSO IN JANUARY.

5. ADD A SENIOR AGRICULTURE OFFICER AS SOON AS FAO TURNS UP A GOOD MAN. ANDERSEN SAID HE HAD TURNED DOWN 3 OR 4 LOSERS THAT FAO FLOATED.

2. KOUWENHOVEN WHO HAS THE CONFIDENCE OF PETERSEN, MAKIEDO AND ANDERSEN AND WHO REPUTEDLY WAS TOP DEPUTY RESREP IN ETHIOPIA IN TOUGH SITUATION AND UNDER "LOUSY RESREPS" IS SAID TO HAVE A) INHERITED MEDIOCRE STAFF, AND BAD SITUATION, INCLUDING GOVERNMENT THAT HAS NEVER BEEN HAPPY WITH ANY RESREP IT HAS HAD; B) PREPARED A GOOD COUNTRY PROGRAM THAT WILL BE PRESENTED GC IN JANUARY 1974; C) BEEN TOO INFLEXIBLE, CONSCIENTIOUS RE STRICT INTERPRETATION OF RULES, AND STUBBORN WITH IBRD/IDA TYPES RE PREPARATIONS EDUCATION PROJECTS BOTH ARE INVOLVED WITH DURING HIS FIRST YEAR AS A RESREP. REGARDING POINT C) ABOVE BOTH MAKIEDO (IN MAY) AND ANDERSEN (IN NOVEMBER) HAVE LECTURED HIM RE NEED BE MORE FLEXIBLE "CUT A CORNER WHEN NECESSARY AND FIND COMMON GROUND WITH IBRD." PER ANDERSEN HE NOW HAS MESSAGE. UNDP BELIEVES WITH THAT MESSAGE AND A CONSIDERABLY IMPROVED STAFF HE WILL TAKE HOLD AND DO FIRST CLASS JOB. THEY PLAN REVIEW SITUATION ON SCENE IN MAY-JUNE AND IF THEY AND GOVERNMENT ARE BOTH NOT HAPPY WITH RESULTS TO REPLACE KOUWENHOVEN AT THAT TIME. PER MAKIEDO AND ANDERSEN, YEMEN TOUGHEST PLACE TO STAFF AND YEMENIS ABOUT HARDEST OF ALL WORK WITH "THEY INTERVENE IN UNDP PROGRAM IN TOO MANY FORA...CENTRAL GOVERNMENT HAS LITTLE POWER IN MANY PARTS OF COUNTRY AND THERE LITTLE APPARATUS TO WORK WITH "ESPECIALLY WHEN EL ERIANY AWAY WHICH IS OFTEN." EL ERIANY HAS TOLD THEM HIS ONLY CONCERN IS STRENGTHEN RESREPS OFFICE. UNDP WANTS ATTEMPT DO THIS, AT LEAST IN FIRST INSTANCE, IN PROPOSED WAY AND HAVE TOLD EL ERIANY THAT UNDP YEMEN PROGRAM LIKELY BE UNNECESSARILY SET BACK IF ALTERNATIVE ROUTES SUCH AS IMMEDIATE TRANSFER OF KOUWENHAVEN TAKEN.
BENNETT

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SANAA.CONFIDENTIAL
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PAGE 03 USUN N 05547 112356Z

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